participation, offered in Maharashtra and their locations;

(b) the total investment made in these projects and the share of non-resident Indians; and

(c) how much energy would be generated by each of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (C) Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) have informed that seven numbers of new medium capacity power projects for private participation have been offered in Maharashtra, the locations and capacity of which are as follows:

LOCATION (District)	CAPACITY
1. Waltrj (Aurangabad)	150 MW to 180 MW
2. Sinnar (Nashik)	150 MW to 180 MW
3. Kagal (Kolhapur)	150 MW to 180 MW
4. Mahad (Raigad)	150 MW to 180 MW
5. Ranjangaon (Pune)	100 MW to 150 MW
6. Chincholi-Kate (Solapur)	150 MW to 180 MW
7. Wai (Satara)	100 MW to 150 MW

(b) Does not arise, as bids for the above power projects have been invited and last date for sale of bid documents is not yet over.

Power Transmission by Private Sector

1419. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend Central Electricity Act to permit private sector participation in the power transmission;

(b) if so, whether the power transmission job would be provided to those who have set up power plants only;

(c) if so, the details of interested companies; and

(d) by when it is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) the Indian electricity Act, 1910 and the electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, have been amended through the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997, issued on 24.1.1997, recognising transmission as a distinct activity and providing for issue of transmission licenses which will, inter alia, facilitate private investments in the field of transmission.

(b) to (d) The amendment are meant to recognise transmission as an activity distinct from generation and thereture any company whether in private, public or joint sector can undertake transmission projects after obtaining a transmission licenses. The Government ot Karnataka has called for offers to construct the transmission system for evacuation of Power from the Mangalore area. 22 private companies have bought the bid documents.

Charges on Electricity Purchased from the Central Pool

1420. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) What are the Charges levied per unit by the centre from the state Governments for electricity supplied from the central pool;

(b) the quantum of electricity being sold to Kerala from the central pool as on 31st december, 1996;

(c) what expenditure the Kerala SEB is incurring for transmission of the electricity, per unit; and

(d) what are the charges for production and distribution of electricity, separately, produced in Kerala, per unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) NTPC tariffs are notified on two part basis, viz., fixed charges (Rs. Crs./Ycar), and Variable charges (P/Kwh), which are further subject to adjustment for fuel price variation on monthly basis. The tariffs notified by Government of India for various power stations of NTPC are given in the Statement. *(Sec* below).

The quantum of energy supplied to Kerala from Ramagundam STPS during 1995-96 and from 1.4.1996 to 31.12.1996 is 1627.9 MUs and 1418.3 MUs respectively.

(c) tod (d) The cost of supply jo, pooled cost of generation, transmission